

It is exciting for such an accomplished young person to have this honor and will be something she will cherish for a lifetime. She joins a long line of family members who have also had the honor of serving as queen of Endymion: her mother Mary in 1984, her aunt Michelle in 1986, and her aunt Margie in 1991.

As we celebrate the 2012 Mardi Gras season, it is my pleasure to honor Ms. Erica d'Aquin as the 46th queen of the Krewe of Endymion.●

REMEMBERING GAIL ACHTERMAN

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize someone who may not be familiar to members of the Senate, but in my State is synonymous with what makes Oregon a place that values the environment, its natural resources and its scenery.

Gail Achterman of Portland passed away on January 28 of pancreatic cancer. Gail was a special friend for more than 40 years. When I arrived on the Stanford University campus in the summer of 1969, Gail and I were tour guides together, two Democrats at the conservative Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace. We laughed about it then, and kept sharing jokes and stories for more than 40 years.

Gail leaves behind an impressive legacy of public service and dedication to environmental causes that will endure for years to come. Her professional resume is impressive: Lawyer, director of the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University, chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, natural resources advisor to a former governor and member of too many State councils, boards and commissions to list here.

Even more impressive, however, was her life-long commitment to those things that make Oregon great. For an example, look no further than the indispensable role she played in creation of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area in 1981. Anyone who has seen the majestic Columbia River Gorge knows it is one of the most beautiful places on earth—a crown jewel in a landscape filled with natural beauty. I was proud to be part of protecting The Gorge and proud of partnering with Gail in making that happen.

I want to extend my condolences to her husband Chuck and to her family and assure them that Oregon is a greater State thanks to my special friend Gail and the ideals she believed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Nieman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:25 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MICA, PETRI, DUNCAN of Tennessee, GRAVES of Missouri, SHUSTER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Messrs. CRAVAACK, RAHALL, DEFazio, COSTELLO, BOSWELL, and CARNAHAN.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sections 102, 105, 201, 202, 204, 208, 209, 212, 220, 321, 324, 326, 812, title X and title XIII of the House bill and sections 102, 103, 106, 216, 301, 302, 309, 320, 327, title VI, and section 732 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HALL, PALAZZO, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of title XI of the House bill and titles VII and XI of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CAMP, TIBERI and LEVIN.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4825. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Real-Time Public Reporting of Swap Transaction Data" (RIN3038-AD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4826. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Kiwifruit Grown in California; Change in Reporting Requirements and New Information Collection" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0041; FV11-920-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4827. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Dairy Promotion and Research Program; Amendments to the Order" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0047; FV11-930-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4828. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichoderma virens strain G-41; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9333-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4829. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John D. Gardner, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4830. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Robert F. Willard, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4831. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4832. A joint communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Center of Excellence in the Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Extremity Injuries, and Amputations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4833. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act Implementation" (RIN2590-AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4834. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Implementation" (RIN2590-AA46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4835. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4836. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management